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ABSTRACT

Past and current trends in the growth of families with two workers or more are examined in this article. It discusses such subjects as influence of trends in fertility on the growth of these families, the relation between husbands' and wives' occupations, and some of the impact of the recession and inflation on these families. Tables and statistical data are included to support content. (WL)

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Families and the Rise of Working Wives—an Overview

Special Labor Force Report 189

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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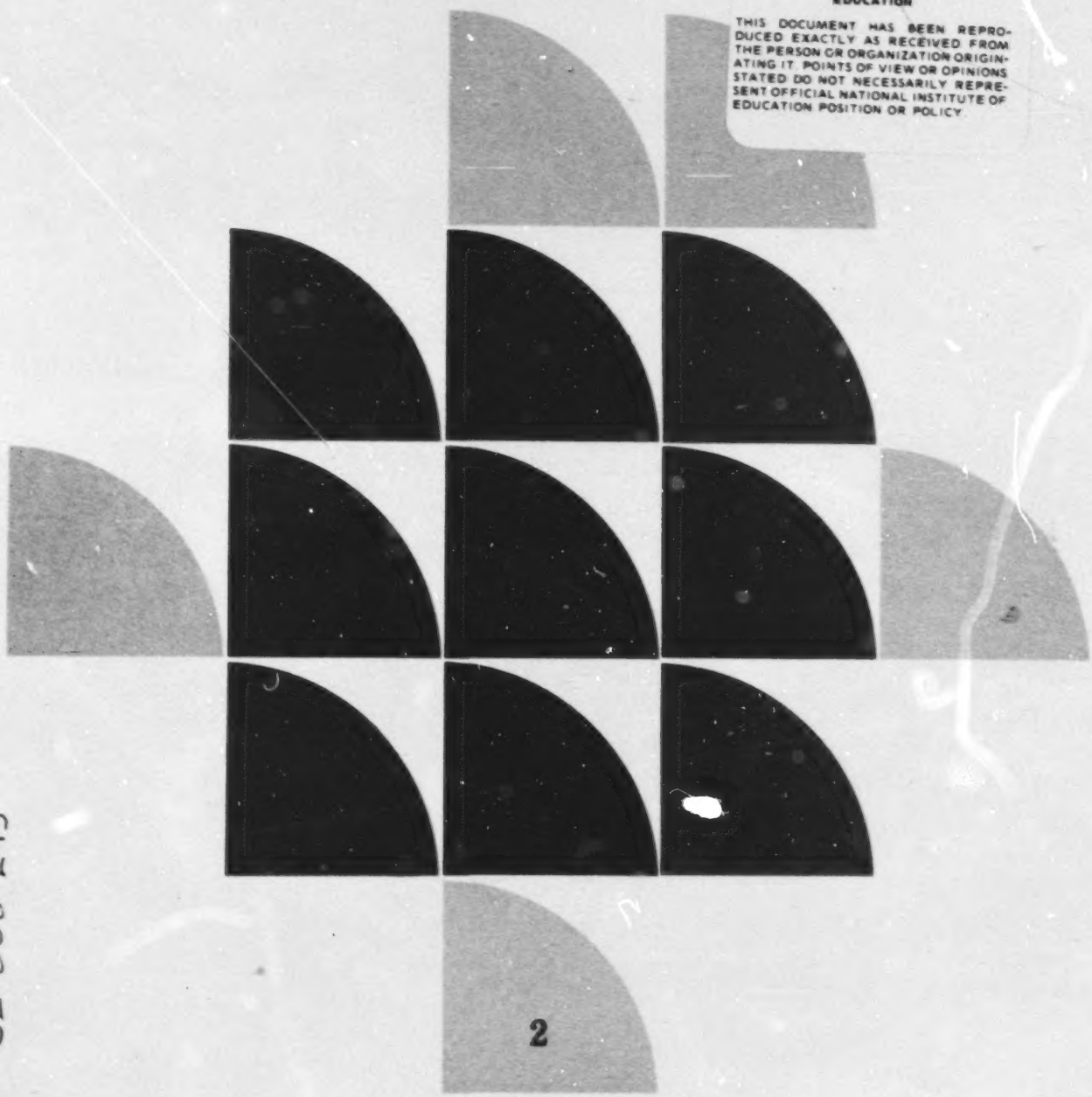

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Families and the rise of working wives—an overview

Special Labor Force Report shows that families with 2 workers or more have increased over the 1950–75 period from 36 to 49 percent

HOWARD HAYGHE

Families in which not only the husband but also the wife, and possibly some other family member, are in the labor force (multiworker families) are a major—and growing—segment of American society. In 1975, nearly half of all husband-wife families had 2 workers or more and about two-fifths of all children under age 18 were in such families. As the numbers and proportions of these families continue to rise, their impact on the economy in terms of higher family income and consumption will increase as well.

This article examines past and current trends in the growth of families with two workers or more. It discusses such subjects as the influence of trends in fertility on the growth of these families, the relation between husbands' and wives' occupations, and some of the impact of the recession and inflation on these families.

Early trends

Until recently, husbands have usually been the sole producers of earned income for their families, whether the income was derived from their own farms or businesses or from their labors in a factory. Wives, on the other hand, had contributed to the families' economic well-being largely through home production tasks.

From the colonial era into the 19th century, a small proportion of wives earned money operating taverns, inns, and shops; working in the needle trades and in cottage industries; and operating primary schools.[1] As early as 1820, they were employed in at least 75 kinds of manufacturing establishments. By the 1830's, women were employed in a great variety of occupations including shoebinding, typesetting, bookbinding, saddling, brushmaking, tailoring, whipmaking, and many other trades. The census of 1850 enumerated nearly 175 industries in which women were employed.[2]

With the onset of the industrial revolution in the 19th century, a transformation occurred in the economic position of women and in the character and conditions of their work. Many of their unpaid services had been transformed into paid employment and much of their work had been moved from the home to the factory and workshop, thereby increasing their range of possible employment.[3] These growing opportunities were not ignored; the proportion of wives who made contributions to their families' economic welfare in the form of money

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earnings began to rise. Small though it was, this change in the role of wives can be illustrated by the proportions of wives that were gainfully employed in the following selected years:[4]

Year	*Percent gainfully employed*
1890 (est.)	4.6
1900	5.6
1910	10.7
1920	9.0

From 1900 to 1910, the proportion of working wives almost doubled. Most wives apparently worked to supplement the earnings of their husbands. Data from a 1920 survey of women wage earners in four cities (Butte, Mont.; Passaic, N.J.; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.)[5] show that about 85 percent of the working wives in the study had husbands who also were employed. In March 1975, this proportion was *almost exactly* the same. The contribution of working wives in terms of money to their families appears to have been substantial. A study of workers employed primarily in the shoe industry in Manchester, N.H., in 1919 and 1920 showed that wives contributed an average of 26 percent of their families' wage and salary income.[6] It is startling to note that in March 1975, the earnings of working wives were about the same proportion of family income as in 1920.

Between 1920 and 1950, the proportion of employed wives—and hence the proportion of families with two workers or more—rose from 9 to 22 percent. Economic, social, and technological changes had an impact on the employment of wives. Many consumer goods and labor-saving devices became available, substantially decreasing the amount of time needed for housework as well as the variety of tasks involved. Also, World War II brought millions of wives into the work force to meet the demands of war production.

Trends from 1950 to 1975

Over the 25-year period, 1950–75, the proportion of employed wives continued its rapid growth. Consequently the proportion of multiworker families advanced from 36 out of 100 families to 49 out of 100 in 1975. (See table 1.)

Data on multiworker families by age are not available. However, using wives' labor force participation rates by age as a proxy for the proportion of multiworker families, it appears that the growth of these families from 1950 to 1975 has been uneven, beginning among middle-aged families and continuing among progressively younger groups. (See table 2.) Thus, between 1950 and 1955, the labor force rates of women 35 to 44 and 45 to 64—women who were past the most fertile childbearing ages and whose own children were largely grown—rose by 5.2 and 7.2 percentage points, respectively, while the rates for women 20 to 24 and 25 to 34—the prime childbearing ages—rose less. By the last half of the 1960's, declining birth rates and the onset of the highest inflation to date in this century were among the factors helping to bring about a shift in the pattern: the labor force participation rates of wives under age 35 were rising at a more rapid clip than the rates of older wives.

Labor force participation on the part of wives is a measure of the growth of multiworker families. Family members other than the wife have not contributed much to the increasing proportion of multiworker families. As of March 1975, in only 16 percent of multiworker families was there an additional worker who was not the wife but rather a son, daughter, or other family member related to the husband by blood or marriage. The proportion has

Table 1. Trends in the proportion of husband-wife families with 2 workers or more and the labor force participation rates of wives, March 1950–March 1975

(In percent)

Year (March to March)	Proportion of families with 2 workers or more	Labor force participation rate of wives	Year	Proportion of families with 2 workers or more	Labor force participation rate of wives	Year	Proportion of families with 2 workers or more	Labor force participation rate of wives
1950	36.1	23.8	1961	40.3	32.7	1968	44.1	38.3
1955[1]	36.2	27.7	1962	39.8	32.7	1969	45.1	39.6
1956	37.9	29.0	1963	41.0	33.7	1970	46.2	40.8
1957	[2]38.3	29.6	1964	41.8	34.4	1971	46.0	40.8
1958	37.8	30.2	1965	41.6	34.7	1972	46.7	41.5
1959	38.8	30.9	1966	42.5	35.4	1973	47.3	42.2
1960	38.3	30.5	1967	43.9	36.8	1974	48.0	43.0
						1975	48.7	44.4

[1] The reference month for 1955 is April.

[2] Estimated.

declined sharply since 1955. (See table 3). Offsetting somewhat the declining proportion of multiworker families where the wife was *not* the additional worker was an increase in the proportion of families where both the wife and at least one other family member were in the labor force. This proportion rose from 12.3 percent in 1950 to 17.4 percent in 1975.

Wives work or look for work for a multiplicity of reasons. The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics survey [7] detailing the reasons why wives work was conducted for the year 1963, when only about a third of all wives were employed. This study showed that 42 percent worked because of financial necessity, 19 percent for personal satisfaction, 17 percent to earn extra money, and the remainder for a variety of other reasons. These proportions might differ significantly if the survey were taken today because many more married women are working and, on average, they tend to be younger, about 39 years old compared with 42 years in 1963.

Race. For both blacks [8] and whites, the proportion of multiworker families has increased since 1965,[9] but the increase has been more rapid among whites. The proportion of white families with two workers or more has increased by about one-fifth whereas the rise among the black families was much smaller. As a result, the differences in the proportions have narrowed:

	Black	*White*	*Percentage point difference*
1965	51.2	40.7	10.5
1970	54.6	45.4	9.2
1975	53.7	48.4	5.3

These developments have paralleled labor force participation patterns of black and white wives—the labor force participation rates of white wives, although smaller than those of black wives, have risen faster over this period.[10]

Table 2. Percentage point changes in labor force participation rates of wives 16 to 64 years old for 5-year intervals, 1950–75

Period (March to March)	16 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 64 years
1950-55 [1]	−4.2	0.9	2.2	5.2	7.2
1955-60	2.8	0.5	1.7	2.5	5.2
1960-65	1.7	5.6	4.4	4.4	4.8
1965-70	9.0	11.8	7.2	6.6	5.1
1970-75	9.6	9.7	9.0	4.9	0.0

[1] The reference month for 1955 is April.

NOTE: Data for years prior to 1967 include persons 14 years old and over; in accordance with the change introduced in 1967, data for subsequent years include only persons 16 years old and over.

Table 3. Families with 2 workers or more by relationship of additional worker(s) to husband, 1955–75

[Percent distribution]

Month and year	Families with 2 workers or more (in thousands)	Total	Where additional worker was—		
			Not wife	Wife only	Wife and other member(s)
April 1955	13,608	100.0	28.0	59.7	12.3
March 1960	15,068	100.0	25.8	59.8	14.4
March 1965	17,322	100.0	22.2	62.4	15.4
March 1970	20,517	100.0	17.5	65.0	17.5
March 1975	22,881	100.0	16.2	66.4	17.4

Fertility and demand. The declining fertility of wives and the rising demand for women workers are two of the important factors underlying the rising trend in multiworker families. (See chart 1.) Fertility is represented by the proportion of wives with children under 6 and demand by an index of employment (adjusted for population growth) in four service-producing industries where a high proportion of the employees are women.

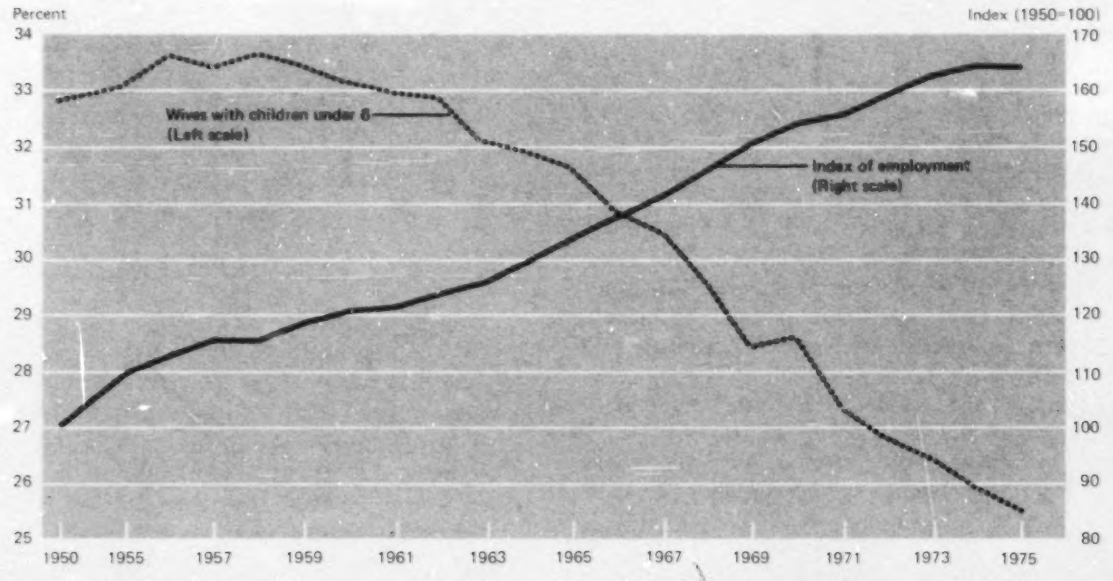
The relationship of the fertility of wives to their labor force participation has been well established.[11] In recent years, growing numbers of wives were questioning and redefining their roles in the family and the work force. Hence, the fertility variable does not merely represent changes in the proportion of wives able to work because they do not have young children to care for, but also changes in the cultural and social climate which wives found more conducive to expanding their role in the job market.

Between 1950 and 1960, as birth rates remained high—averaging between 24 and 25 per 1,000 women—the proportion of wives with children under 6 varied little and, therefore, the proportion of families with husband and wife both working remained fairly steady. As birth rates declined—falling from 19.6 in 1965 to 14.9 in 1974—our measure of fertility also declined, and the proportion of families with wife or other member working continued to grow.

The intensity of demand for women workers is illustrated by an index of employment in four industry sectors—retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; service; and State and local government. Since 1950, the industrial sector in which women most often hold jobs, namely the services sector,

Chart 1.

Trends in the proportion of wives with children under 6 and index of employment in 4 selected industry sectors, 1950-75



has more than doubled, while the number working in the goods-producing sector rose by only about a fifth. By 1975, 82 percent of all women working in nonagricultural industries were employed in the service sector where they held about 45 percent of the jobs. Hence, an index of employment (adjusted to account for population growth) in the four sectors mentioned above—where women are between 47 and 55 percent of the total employed—would appear to be a good indicator of the demand for women workers. This index has risen by 64 percent since 1950.

Income and occupation of husbands and wives. Between 1950 and 1974, median annual income (adjusted for inflation) of families more than doubled when the wife was in the paid labor force and rose by about four-fifths when she was not:

	Median family income (in 1974 dollars)	
	Wife in paid labor force	*Wife not in paid labor force*
1950	$ 8,200	$ 6,791
1960	11,490	9,192
1965	13,437	10,303
1970	15,759	11,816
1974	16,928	12,082

Among the many elements affecting the more rapid increase were changes in the occupational distribution of wives as well as husbands. (See table 4.) The proportions of men and women working in occupational groups that are, on average, the ones with higher pay, were considerably larger in 1975 than in 1950. For example, the proportion of husbands who were in professional-technical work more than doubled, while the proportion of wives in these occupations increased by 85 percent.

The occupational upgrading of wives was not uniform with respect to the occupations of their husbands. (See table 5.) In general, occupational shifts appeared to be less among wives of husbands who worked in occupations which, on average, are higher paid than among wives of men in occupations with lower pay. For wives of men who were professional-technical workers, there was virtually no change in the occupational distribution between 1960 (the earliest year that Current Population Survey data are available on this subject) and 1975. In contrast, wives of managers and salesworkers made large gains in professional and technical occupations. Among wives of blue-collar and service workers, however, changes were concentrated in the clerical and service occupation groups. For example, in

1960, 24 percent of the wives of operatives were in clerical occupations, compared with 32 percent in 1975; among wives of laborers, the proportions were 15 and 29 percent, respectively.

In many instances, a substantial proportion of wives were employed in the same major occupational groups as their husbands. More than 4 out of 10 employed wives whose husbands were in professional occupations were also in professional-technical occupations; among those whose husbands were non-college teachers, 5 out of 10 also taught. Where husbands were clerical workers, 5 out of 10 wives were also clerical workers. Wives of craftworkers, laborers, and operatives were, on the other hand, not as likely to work in the same occupational group as their husbands.

Current situation

In March 1975, families where the husband and some other member were in the labor force constituted about half of the 46 million husband-wife families in the United States. Only about 38 percent of all husband-wife families had just one worker. (See chart 2.) Approximately 22 million children, or 4 out of every 10 under age 18, were in families where both parents were working.

For most of today's working wives, their attachment to the labor force is neither temporary nor capricious. In March 1975, 72 percent of the wives were working at full-time jobs. Even where there were preschool age children in the family, nearly two-thirds of the mothers worked full time. The continuity of their attachment to the labor force is made evident by the fact that in 1974 about 2 out of 5 working wives were employed full time all year. These ratios varied somewhat by the work experience of the husband. The proportion of wives working full time during 1974 was higher among those whose husbands worked less than a full year than among those whose husbands were year-round full-time workers. Presumably, wives of men who worked year-round full time are under less pressure to contribute to family income. (See table 6.)

A wife with young children is less likely than a wife with older or no children, to have worked during the year. Thus, about 5 out of 10 wives without children and 6 out of 10 with children 6 to 17 worked at some time during 1974, compared with 4 out of 10 of those with children under 6. Also, mothers of young children who did work full time at some time in 1974 tended to work fewer weeks during the year than other wives. About 27 percent of the mothers of preschool age children worked full time year-round compared to 41 and 53 percent, respectively, for mothers of school age children and for wives without children.

Chart 2.

Husband-wife families by labor force status of family members

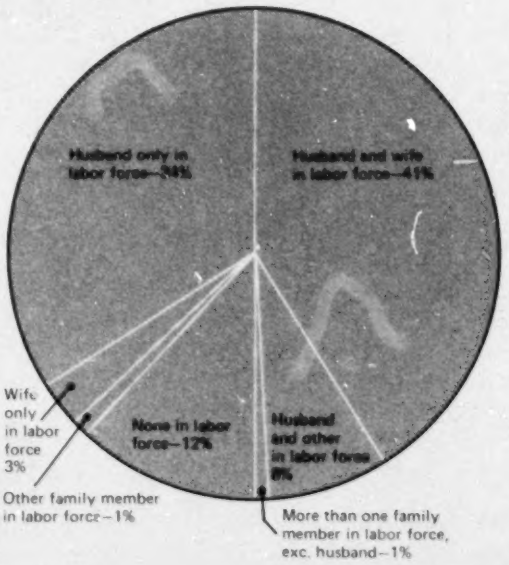

Husband only in labor force—34%
Husband and wife in labor force—41%
Wife only in labor force 3%
None in labor force—12%
Husband and other in labor force 8%
Other family member in labor force—1%
More than one family member in labor force, exc. husband—1%

Table 4. Occupational distribution of employed husbands and wives, March 1950, 1960, and 1975[1]

(Percent distribution)

Occupation	Husbands			Wives		
	1950	1960	1975	1950	1960	1975
Total	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Professional technical	6 8	11 6	15 9	9 5	13 0	17 6
Managers and administrators, except farm	15 2	15 8	16 8	7 0	5 0	5 6
Sales	12 7	5 8	6 4	32 4	8 4	6 8
Clerical		6 4	5 8		28 3	35 0
Craft	19 8	20 9	22 5	1 2	1 0	1 6
Operatives	20 5	19 7	16 8	23 1	18 6	12 5
Laborers, except farm and mine	6 2	5 9	4 9	4	3	3
Private household				20 2	6 2	2 2
Service, except private household	5 5	5 5	6 5		15 9	16 6
Farmers and farm managers	11 6	6 8	3 3	1 0	2	3
Farm laborers and foremen	1 6	1 4	1 0	5 2	3 1	9

[1] Data for 1950 and 1960 include persons 14 and 15 years old; data for 1975 include only those 16 years old and over.

NOTE: Due to rounding sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Working wives made significant contributions to family income, with the relative size of the contribution depending upon the extent of the wife's work experience—higher for those with year-round full-time work experience and lower for those who worked less:

	Median family income in 1974	*Median percent of family income contributed by wife*
Wife worked—		
Full time		
50 to 52 weeks	$17,500	38
27 to 49 weeks	$14,400	29
Part time, or 1 to 26 weeks full time ...	$13,500	12

It is interesting to note how much family income rises when the earnings of two persons or more are added to the husband's earnings. Table 7 shows that when the husband was the only earner, family income averaged $12,360, as compared with $21,045 (70 percent higher) when his wife and at least one other family member had earnings.

Recession and inflation. Rising unemployment and shrinking incomes went hand in hand with the combined recession-inflation of 1974 and 1975. As a result of the sagging economy, the number of unemployed husbands and their unemployment rate more than doubled between March 1974 and March 1975. Of the 1.2-million increase in unemployed family heads, 800,000, or two-thirds of the increase, were heads of multiworker families. The unemployment rate of husbands who headed multiworker families soared from 2.7 percent in March 1974 to 6.3 percent a year later. Over the same period, the unemployment rate of husbands in single-worker families doubled, rising from 2.8 to 5.6 percent. The rate for heads of multiworker families was higher when the wife was in the labor force (6.5 percent) than when she was not (5.2 percent). About 1 out of 5 unemployed husbands had wives who were employed. This proportion was unchanged over the year.

Table 5. Occupations of wives by occupations of husbands, March 1960 and 1975

[Percent distribution]

Husband's occupation	Wife's occupation										
	Total	Professional-technical	Managers and administrators excluding farm	Sales	Clerical	Craft	Operatives	Laborers excluding farm and mine	Private household	Service excluding private household	Farmworkers
Professional-technical:											
1960	100 0	43 4	3 8	5 3	34 5	0 4	4 3		1 1	6 6	0 5
1975	100 0	42 3	5 9	5 7	34 8	7	3 0	0 3	5	6 7	
Managers and administrators excluding farm:											
1960	100 0	12 1	14 0	13 4	36 6	9	8 7	3	1 0	12 6	4
1975	100 0	22 0	11 3	7 8	41 3	1 4	5 5	8	6	9 0	2
Sales:											
1960	100 0	15 1	8 5	14 8	41 8	8	7 9		1 5	9 6	
1975	100 0	23 5	6 4	12 2	40 1	1 4	5 0	4	7	10 2	
Clerical:											
1960	100 0	13 6	2 5	6 4	47 9	4	14 5		2 9	10 6	1 2
1975	100 0	14 5	4 0	6 8	49 4	8	9 4	6	9	13 3	4
Crafts:											
1960	100 0	10 3	4 3	8 7	30 6	1 3	21 7	4	5 0	17 3	3
1975	100 0	10 9	4 5	6 8	37 4	2 1	15 9	1 0	2 0	18 9	5
Operatives:											
1960	100 0	5 9	3 7	7 1	23 8	1 0	34 1	3	5 9	17 0	4
1975	100 0	7 6	3 1	5 8	31 5	2 4	23 2	1 1	4 0	20 7	6
Laborers excluding farm and mine:											
1960	100 0	1 9	1 4	7 3	14 5	5	27 5	9	17 5	27 0	1 4
1975	100 0	8 2	2 6	4 9	28 5	1 8	19 6	2 1	6 7	25 0	7
Service:											
1960	100 0	8 2	3 0	5 8	20 8	2 0	18 8	2	11 2	29 0	1 1
1975	100 0	12 1	4 0	5 7	30 6	2 0	12 5	4	2 3	30 1	4
Farmers and farm managers:											
1960	100 0	13 9	2 5	4 6	7 8	1 2	12 0		3 1	8 6	46 3
1975	100 0	12 7	4 4	4 9	18 3	1 9	6 8	9	2 5	14 3	33 6
Farm laborers and supervisors:											
1960	100 0	3 7		4 7	2 8		5 2		34 6	15 9	13 1
1975	100 0	4 6	3 8	2 3	28 4	1 5	13 1		6 2	28 9	11 5

NOTE: Data for 1960 include persons 14 and 15 years old; data for 1975 are for those 16 years old and over.

Along with the increase in the unemployment of husbands went increases in the unemployment of wives. Between March 1974 and March 1975, the unemployment rate of wives in multiworker families went from 4.6 to 8.5 percent. Paralleling the increase in wives' unemployment, the proportion of multiworker families where the head and other members were unemployed and no one was employed rose from 0.4 percent in 1974 to 1.4 percent a year later.

The ability of many families to consume and to meet their financial obligations was severely affected by the combination of recession and inflation during 1974. In terms of current dollars, median family income rose between 1973 and 1974, but, when the 1974 figures are adjusted to take into account inflation, they show a net loss in real purchasing power:

	1973	*1974*	*1974 in 1973 dollars*
Multiworker families	$15,450	$16,930	$15,250
Husband only earner	11,500	12,360	11,140

While prices rose by 11 percent between 1973 and 1974, real family income declined by about 4 percent from the 1973 median, expressed in constant dollars.[12] Among multiworker families, the decline in purchasing power was only about 1.3 percent. In families where the husband was the only worker, it dropped by about 3.1 percent, or 2⅓ times the decline for multiworker families. Thus, the presence of additional workers in the family helped ameliorate the impact of the combination of inflation and recession on family income.

Table 7. Median income of husband-wife families in 1974 by number of earners and relationship to husband

Relationship to husband	Median family income			Number of husband-wife families (thousands)		
	1 earner	2 earners	3 earners or more	1 earner	2 earners	3 earners or more
Total	$11,955	$15,120	$20,975	15,637	19,878	7,199
Husband only	12,360	.....	.....	13,388	.....	.....
Wife only	8,225	.....	.....	1,198	.....	.....
Other relative only	11,855	.....	.....	451	.....	.....
Husband and wife earners	.....	14,885	21,045	.....	16,698	5,527
Husband and others, not wife	.....	17,335	20,985	.....	2,876	1,351
Husband not an earner	.....	11,685	15,055	.....	304	121

NOTE: Family income was $5,520 in 1974 for the 4.3 million husband-wife families that had no earners.

Implications

The most obvious conclusion that can be drawn from the preceding facts and figures is that American families have undergone a fundamental change in the manner in which they provide for their economic welfare. The family model of husband-breadwinner and wife-homemaker is valid for only 34 out of 100 husband-wife families compared with 56 out of 100 a quarter century ago. This is only one indication of the alterations taking place in husband-wife roles and hence in the family.

Table 6. Work experience of wives by work experience of husbands and presence and age of children, 1974

Item	Percent of wives with work experience	Work experience of wife						
		Total	Worked full-time [1]			Worked part-time [2]		
			Total	50 to 52 weeks	27 to 49 weeks	1 to 26 weeks	Total	27 weeks or more	1 to 26 weeks
Total	52.2	100.0	68.9	43.4	13.4	12.1	31.1	19.4	11.7
Work experience of husband:									
Worked during year	56.9	100.0	68.7	43.0	13.4	12.3	31.3	19.5	11.8
Year-round worker	56.8	100.0	67.9	44.8	12.2	10.9	32.1	20.6	11.5
Full time [1]	57.1	100.0	68.1	44.9	12.3	10.9	31.9	20.5	11.5
Part time [2]	49.1	100.0	60.8	42.4	9.4	9.0	39.2	26.6	12.6
Part-year worker	57.2	100.0	72.3	35.9	18.5	17.9	27.7	14.8	12.9
27 to 49 weeks	58.7	100.0	72.5	34.3	20.0	18.2	27.5	14.6	12.8
1 to 26 weeks	53.8	100.0	71.9	39.6	14.9	17.4	28.1	15.2	12.9
Did not work	23.5	100.0	71.6	48.1	13.6	10.0	28.4	18.0	10.4
Presence and age of children:									
None under 18 years old	50.0	100.0	76.0	53.1	13.0	9.9	24.0	16.7	7.3
Children 6 to 17 years only	59.3	100.0	63.0	41.2	12.3	9.5	37.0	25.5	11.5
Children under 6	41.2	100.0	63.2	27.4	15.8	20.0	36.7	16.2	20.5

[1] Worked 35 hours or more per week during a majority of weeks worked.

[2] Worked less than 35 hours per week during a majority of weeks worked.

One of the more important problems resulting from the growth of multiworker families, which faces both the individual family as well as society, is that of child care and child rearing. Increasing proportions of children are in multiworker families; in March 1970, 38 percent of all children under age 18 in husband-wife families where the head was in the labor force were in multiworker families—5 years later the proportion was 43 percent. For some of the children, the additional income may mean the difference between poverty and its concomitants —ill health, inadequate food, housing, and education —and a level of living providing the basic necessities of modern America. For many others, however, the extra income often provides advantages of many sorts, such as higher education or personal belongings they might not have otherwise.

The benefits of higher family income may be offset to some degree by what Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner calls the "progressive fragmentation and isolation of the family in its child rearing role." [13] In other words, the growth of multiworker families may be among the many factors cutting off communication between generations and contributing to a state of alienation between young people and society (generation gap). It should be noted, though, that other observers [14] feel that there is little causal relationship between the growth of multiworker families and the existence of the generation gap, but rather both result from massive changes overtaking society. □

———*FOOTNOTES*———

[1] See Edith Abbott, *Women in Industry, A Study in American Economic History* (Appleton and Co., 1910), reprinted by Arno Press, 1969.

[2] Helen L. Sumner, "Report on the Condition of Women and Child Wage Earners in the U.S.," *History of Women in Industry in the U.S.*, Vol. 9, p. 17.

[3] Sumner, "Report on the Condition of Women," p. 11.

[4] J. A. Hill, *Women in Gainful Occupations 1810 to 1890*, Census Monographs IV, p. 76. It should be noted that "gainfully employed" as used here is not really comparable to "employment" as currently defined. A person who was gainfully employed was someone 10 years or over in an occupation in which he earned money or its equivalent or produced a marketable good. The primary purpose of gainful worker statistics was to produce a count of occupations, not the employment status of persons. It seems likely that the number of employed wives was undercounted while the number of employed husbands was probably too high. For further details, see *Historical Statistics of the United States—Colonial Times to 1957* (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1960), p. 68.

[5] Agnes L. Peterson, "What the Wage Earning Woman Contributes to Family Support," Bulletin 75 (U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, 1929), p. 14.

[6] See *The Share of Wage Earning Women in Family Support*, Bulletin 30 (U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, 1923), p. 77.

[7] Carl Rosenfeld and Vera C. Perrella, "Why women start and stop working: A study in mobility," *Monthly Labor Review*, September 1965, pp. 1077–82. Reprinted with additional tabular material as Special Labor Force Report 59.

[8] Prior to 1975, data for nonwhites are used to represent data for blacks.

[9] Data by race were first tabulated in 1955 in the Current Population Survey's Marital and Family series.

[10] Howard Hayghe, "Marital and family characteristics of workers, March 1974," *Monthly Labor Review*, January 1975, pp. 60–64.

[11] See, for example, Glen G. Cain, *Married Women in the Labor Force* (Ill., University of Chicago Press, 1966) or W. G. Bowen and T. A. Finegan, *The Economics of Labor Force Participation* (N.J., Princeton University Press, 1969).

[12] "Money Income in 1974 of Families and Persons in the United States," *Current Population Reports*, series P–60, p. 1.

[13] See Urie Bronfenbrenner, "The next generation of Americans," paper presented at the 1975 Annual Meeting of the American Associations of Advertising Agencies.

[14] See Margaret Mead, *Culture and Commitment, A Study of the Generation Gap*, Doubleday, 1970.

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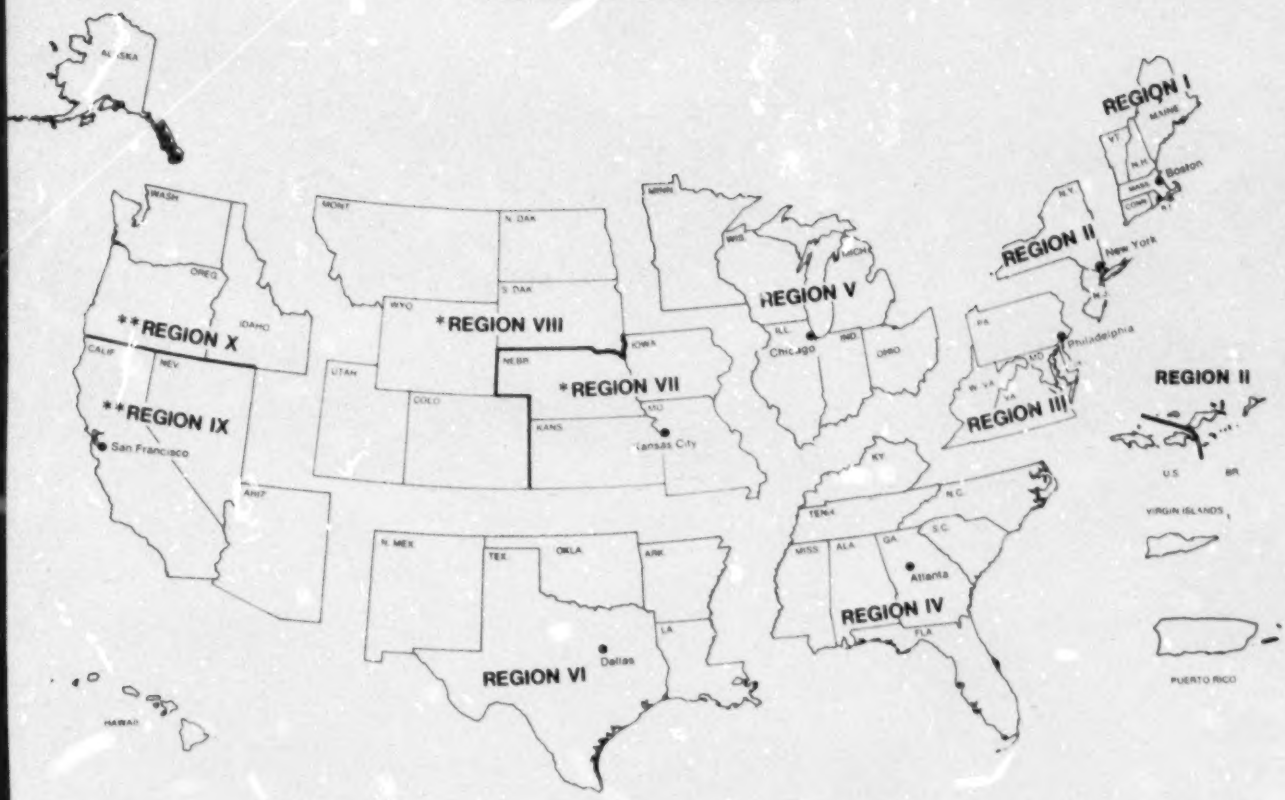

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